

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXVII NUMBER 3

MARCH 2019

EBARC Meetings

March 8, 7:30 p.m.
"Radio Direction Finding"
Rich Harrington, KN6FW

EBARC meets this month at El Sobrante United Methodist Church, 670
Applan Way, El Sobrante (enter parking opposite 5156 Argyle Rd.)

The Executive Board meets monthly before each general meeting. For the date,
time, & location, contact President Ken Fowler, at ko6no@comcast.net.



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THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
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El Cerrito, CA 94530

The Blown Fuse is published monthly by the East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and is free to its members. *The Blown Fuse* welcomes articles of interest to its members and amateur radio in general. *The Blown Fuse* reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Material submitted becomes the property of *The Blown Fuse*. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce material printed herein provided proper acknowledgment is given. Editor: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

Deadline for Apr. issue: Tues., Mar. 26th

[Articles may be submitted by "snail" mail, by dictation over the 'phone 510-741-8227, or by e-mail to aa6xz@earthlink.net]

Temporary Meeting Place!

El Sobrante United Methodist Church
670 Appian Way, El Sobrante
Parking entrance is opposite 5156 Argyle Rd.
GPS coordinates: 37.981938, -122.294720

March 8th EBARC Meeting Martin Rothfield, W6MRR

This month we'll hear from Rich Harrington, KN6FW, about Radio Direction Finding, aka T-Hunting. T-Hunting (aka Fox Hunting) has a long amateur radio history. Hunt participants use radio direction finding techniques to locate one or more radio transmitters hidden in a designated search area. Rich will be presenting some of the systems and techniques used in T-Hunting.

There is an active local ham community that participates in T-Hunting. There's a hunt the day after our meeting (March 9th) in Fremont sponsored by rdf-sf (<https://qsl.net/sfthunt/rdf-sf/>). We're invited to participate with our newly learned techniques.

About Rich Harrington: First ham license WA6GJF about 1960. First class radio telephone license 1960. First transmitter hunt about 1962. US Navy 1966-1972 ECM operator (Transmitter hunting). Retired Pacific Bell communication engineer. Registered Professional Engineer with the state of California. Amateur radio operator KN6FW. Upgraded to extra when the code requirement went to 5 wpm. Hobby: Designing and using radio direction finding equipment

General Meeting Minutes Robin Spalding, N6RLS, Secretary

Opening: The Friday, 8 February 2019 general EBARC meeting in the El Sobrante United Methodist Church meeting room started about 7:30 p.m. There was the usual round of introductions plus the question, "What computer(s) do you use in your shack?" Windows, Linux, Mac, and Raspberry Pie were mentioned most often. Cell phones and Android tablets were also mentioned. This was followed directly by the night's program.

Presentation: "Securing Your Shack Computer" - a detailed and informative talk by Bryce Lynch. He has an extensive background in computer issues including problems of security and hacking. His program notes are on the EBARC website:
http://ebarc.org/pdf/securing_your_shack_computer.pdf His Twitter address (with a link to his website) is: <https://twitter.com/virtadpt>

Attendance: There were 17 signers of the meeting roster

Closing: About 9:10 p.m. Ken Fowler canceled the rest of the General meeting following the presentation, owing to the lateness of the evening.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Friday, March 8th, 2019.

Try FLDigi “DJ” djovida, KJ6DJ

Fast Light Digital modem application (FLDigi) is a free and open-source program which allows an ordinary computer's sound card to be used as a simple two-way data modem. If you would like to try FLDigi, you can download and install the programs from <https://sourceforge.net/projects/fldigi/>. You should also load FLMsg.exe and Flamp.exe. I don't have a Mac, so I am not too much help with the configuration process on those machines. *[Editor's note – DJ will be our April program presenter.]*

ARRL Podcasts are Free Robin Spalding, N6RLS

I've been watching *YouTube* vlogs about ham radio for years, but for some reason haven't really paid much attention to podcasts. Recently I saw an ARRL notice about a new podcast they're starting, so I went to check out their stuff.

Every two weeks since April 2016, the ARRL has presented “The Doctor Is In” podcasts, with over 75 episodes so far. These podcasts answer technical and other questions sent in by hams about the amateur radio hobby. ARRL membership is not required to listen; details, and the podcasts, are available at https://www.blubrry.com/arrl_the_doctor_is_in/. The ARRL page for these is: <http://www.arrl.org/doctor>. The 'Doctor' is ARRL's Joel Hallas, W1ZR, who has been answering questions about amateur radio in QST's “The Doctor is In” column since 2006. Podcasts are hosted by QST Editor In Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY.

On Thursday, March 7th, the ARRL will begin a new podcast aimed at new hams called “So Now What?” This will publish on alternate

weeks with “The Doctor Is In.” Co-hosts are ARRL Communications Content Producer Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, and ARRL W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q. More info: <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-launching-new-podcast-geared-toward-new-radio-amateurs>. The podcasts will be found here: https://www.blubrry.com/arrl_so_now_what/. Also available is the weekly ARRL Audio News podcast, available here: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-audio-news>. These run 10 to 15 minutes and feature news and interviews of interest to hams. Again, no ARRL membership is required to listen.

Even the FCC has a podcast series, with the clever name “More than Seven Dirty Words.” There are nine episodes so far since August, 2018. Listen here: <https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/podcast>

Many other ham-radio-related podcasts and vlogs are available. What are your favorites? I encourage you to write about the one(s) you like and send your review to *The Blown Fuse*.

Potential EBARC Presentations Martin Rothfield, W6MRR

Below is the list of possible EBARC program subjects that were voted on at our January meeting. Each item is preceded by the number of votes it received.

- **16** Radio Theory - Sunspots & RF Propagation, Circuits, SDR, etc.
- **14** Digital modes - PSK, RTTY, FT-8, Olivia, FreeDV, etc.
- **12** Antennas - design and building
- **9** Shack design and building - solar power, proper grounds, correct wire and cable size, etc.
- **8** Microcontroller (Arduino/Raspberry Pi) projects - soldering, coding, home brewing, etc.
- **8** Gear for the shack - radios, test equipment, the latest ham gear

- 8 Six meters - the magic band
- 8 Field trips - to commercial radio stations or emergency radio center
- 7 Working satellites and moon bounce
- 7 RTL-SDR applications
- 5 Putting up a tower
- 5 Homebrew show and tell night
- 5 HF Contesting
- 4 Over 50 MHz - AREDN, VHF contesting
- 3 Mini-Field Day or operate from meeting parking lot
- 3 Movie night
- 1 Vintage gear and tubes

We are working on getting speakers to present these topics. Of course if you're interested in doing a presentation, or if there's something else that you'd like to see covered, please let me know.

It doesn't look like people are very interested in field operations other than Field Day. Is that true? Many clubs operate a mini-field day or even do Winter Field Day (snow and everything). It can be a lot of fun just setting up, operating for a few hours, packing up and going home. It's a great way to try out stuff for Field Day and a chance to get on the air outdoors. If we were to do something like this what would it take to make it more attractive?

"Microcontroller (Arduino/Raspberry Pi) projects - soldering, coding, home brewing,

etc." is very broad. Do people have particular interests? Arduinos and Raspberry Pi's are different, but the both have their uses. Would you be interested in doing workshops at a different time other than usual meeting times and locations?

Many thanks to Michael McMillan, K6MCM, for preafrooding this month's *Blown Fuse*.

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Future Bay Area Events

- Current Bay Area Public Service Events: See www.ebarc.org, click on "Current Events", then scroll to "Calendar of Bay Area Ham Radio Public Service Events."
- EBARC, ORCA, and ARCA sponsor joint ARRL VEC Amateur Radio Test Sessions quarterly at 9 a.m. in the Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (at 16th St.), Oakland. The remaining test dates for 2019 are Apr 28, Jul 28, and Oct 27. The fee for 2019 is still \$15. Info: 510-918-4627 or 510-741-8227.
- CoCoCo ACS Training: Details from Kathy Branstetter, KI6TZE, kathbran@well.com, www.cocoacs.org, or via RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz.

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1947, is a California non-profit organization of amateur radio operators in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The club is open to anyone interested in amateur radio. Annual dues are \$30 for individual membership, \$35 for a family membership, and \$10 for students K-12. For information, send email to ebarc.w6cus@gmail.com, contact any EBARC officer, see Web page www.ebarc.org, or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. You can also follow us on Twitter using @w6cus, or on Facebook's "East Bay Amateur Radio Club."

2019 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Ken Fowler, KO6NO, President	222-0830
Martin Rothfield, W6MRR, 1 st VP - Program Chair.....	705-1199
Craig Hauger, KI6EMD, 2 nd VP - Hospitality.....	672-8382
Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3 rd VP - Membership / <i>Blown Fuse</i> Editor.....	741-8227
Robin Spalding, N6RLS, Secretary / Twitter	528-1144
Maria Hauger, KI6ENT, Treasurer / Finance Committee Chair	672-8382
Mathison Ott, KJ6DZB, Member-at-Large	701-0234
Todd Teachout, KM6HFU, Member-at-Large.....	799-6051

2019 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

W6CUS Trustee; Jack Burris, K6JEB.....	415-305-2547
Club Station Manager; Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU.....	385-4044
Field Day & Education.....	
Webmaster, Facebook, & Meetup; Martin Rothfield, W6MRR	705-1199
Social & Digital Committees Chair	
RFI Committee Chair.....	
Historian	

AMATEUR RADIO NETS

NET	DAYS	LOCAL TIME	FREQ, MHZ
West Contra Costa EMCOMM Net	Thurs	1845 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
KARO/ECHO ARES/RACES(ACS) Net	Thurs	~1900 simplex	146.415
EBARC "Explore Net" (HF)	Mon	1930 (USB)	28.425
NALCO RACES/ARES Net	Thurs	1915 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
Oakland ARES Emergency Communications Net	Thurs	1930 (PL 77-)	146.880
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Thurs	1930 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Tech Net	Thurs	2000 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
"Over the Hill Gang" Breakfast/Commute Net	Mo-Fr	0710 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Northern Calif. Net VHF Session (traffic)	Daily	1930 (PL 107.2-)	145.410
"QRM Net"	Tues	1930 (PL 82.5-)	224.300
9 a.m. Talk Net	Mo-Fr	0900 (PL 100.0-)	145.230
Youth Net	Sat	1400 (PL 100.0-)	145.230

ACS West CoCoCo: Kathy Branstetter, KI6TZE, kathbran@well.com.

Frequencies: #1=145.110-, #2=147.570s. ACS details are at www.cocoacs.org [dead link?]

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IC-7300
HF Transceiver



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VHF/UHF D-STAR Portable

KENWOOD



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TM-D710G
2M/440 Dualband



TM-V71A
2M/440 DualBand



TM-281A
2 Mtr Mobile



TH-D74A
2M/220/440 HT

YAESU
The radio



FT-991A
HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver



FTDX1200
100W HF + 6M Transceiver



FT-450D
A100W HF + 6M Transceiver



FTM-400XD
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FT-70DR
C4FM/FM 144/430 Xcvr

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- RETAIL LOCATIONS – Store hours 10:00AM - 5:30PM - Closed Sunday
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